

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks is requested. Claims 13-19 are now in the case.

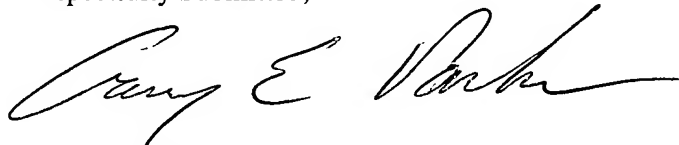
Claims 13-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over Patent No. 6,495,668 and Patent No. 6,468,543 in view of Lindberg et al.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. The present application was filed after November 29, 1999. Thus, the '668 and '543 patents are not prior art where the subject matter and the claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person. 35 U.S.C. § 103(c). A Statement Concerning Common Ownership is enclosed. In view of the common ownership of the present application and the '668 and '543 patents, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are requested.

Applicants' submission of a Statement Concerning Common Ownership is intended to expedite the allowance of the present application and is not to be construed as an acquiescence in the merits of the rejection. The Office has asserted, *inter alia*, "If antagonists are useful to prevent proliferative disease, zveg4 itself would presumably be useful to treat diseases involving loss of cell function, such as renal failure." However, this assertion is believed to be unsupported by evidence of record.

Applicants believe that each rejection has been addressed and overcome. Reconsideration of the application and its allowance are requested. If for any reason the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of the application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (206) 442-6673.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary E. Parker", written in a cursive style.

Gary E. Parker  
Registration No. 31,648

Enclosures:

Amendment Fee Transmittal (in duplicate)  
Request for Extension of Time  
Statement Concerning Common Ownership  
Postcard

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